



Rocks

Amphibolite

Type:

Metamorphic; regional.

Texture/Appearance:

Massive to foliated; gneissic to schistose.

Color:

Black to dark-green often speckled with white.

Mineralogy/Chemistry:

Mafic; composed primarily of amphibole (hornblende) and plagioclase. Minor amounts of biotite, epidote, garnet, chlorite, or quartz may be present. As quartz content increases, the rock grades into hornblende plagioclase gneiss.

Occurrence/Use:

Amphibolites are derived mostly from the intermediate metamorphism of basaltic lava or tuff, or gabbroic or diabasic masses. Some may also form from the alteration of marly sediments. Common in metamorphic terrains associated with other schists and gneisses.